Hence the following motion was considered withdrawn.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon:—*To omit the whole allotment of Rs. 1,072 under 7—Excise—refunds.*

Mr. A. Sankara Poduval.—Sir, I want to know what action has been taken with regard to this matter, whether the contractors' losses have been fully compensated by the Insurance Company.

Mr. M. P. Cherian.—The shipments were insured. It is not a question of loss to the contractor. That does not concern us. We are realising duty on the assumption that the contractor sold or otherwise disposed of the quantity of salt that was missing. It is only to prevent that that we realise the duty. Now that the Port Officer and the Government surveyor testified to its being actually lost we propose to refund the duty we have collected.

Mr. A. Sankara Poduval.—Did the contractor get any compensation from the Insurance Company for the loss?

Mr. M. P. Cherian.—Government need not enquire into the private contract between the contractor and the company.

Demand put and carried.

1 A—7—Excise—Local Allowance—Rs. 156.

Mr. M. P. Cherian.—Sir, I rise to move for an additional grant of Rs. 156 under 7—Excise—Local allowance. Two preventive outposts were opened—one at Vaniampara in Edavam 1108 and the other at Velanthavalam from 1st Chingam 1109 to check and prevent illicit traffic in tobacco, salt and other excisable articles. Vaniampara and Velanthavalam being special tracts, the orderlies stationed there are entitled to get local allowance under the C. S. R. for which an amount of Rs. 156 is necessary in the current year. Specific provision for this expenditure has not been made in the current year's budget. Hence the additional expenditure has become necessary. I request the House to sanction the allotment.

Demand put and carried.

2. 11—Tramway—E—VII—Rs. 345—2—10.

Mr. T. Narayana Menon.—Sir, I rise to move for an additional allotment of Rs. 345—2—10 under 11—Tramway E-VII. The necessity for this demand has been explained in the note on the subject that has been circulated among the Hon'ble Members. I request that the House may be pleased to sanction the allotment.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—Sir, I find from the minutes of the Standing Finance Committee that the item was explained by the Tramway Engineer who was present. May I know what the explanation was?

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Mr. T. Narayana Menon.—Sir, the necessity for writing off a portion of the stock of fuel has not arisen primarily because of deficit in stock owing to bad stacking, shortage due to shrinkage etc., being only one and odd tons. The quantity proposed to be written off, except this one and odd tons, was actually in stock at the time of verification but was found to be of such poor quality as to be unfit for locomotive consumption, as it consisted of decayed billets, peeled-off barks, and other useless remnants left in a number of stacks, and represents the remnants not of one year but of a number of years. It is also worthy of mention that in the matter of supply of fuel to the Tramway cheapness is a more important consideration than the quality of the fuel, and accordingly part of the annual supply has to be made up by green fuel of inferior species which are not in demand as timber. When such green pieces become dry, the bark becomes peeled off and some of the billets in the lower layers of the stacks which lie touching the ground may get deteriorated before the whole stock is used up. It is such non-utilisable remnants that have now to be written off and not actual deficit in stock.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—What was the total quantity stocked there?

Mr. T. Narayana Menon.—It is not possible to say the exact quantity because these remnants are not of one year but of a number of years. The annual average for a period of 5 years from 1103 to 1107 comes to about 3700 and odd tons.

Mr. A. Sankara Poduval.—Is it a fact that green fuel weighs more than dry fuel? How is it measured?

Mr. T. Narayana Menon.—The measure is not made by weight, but by taking cubic contents.

Motion No. 3.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—Sir, I don't move the cut.

Hence the following motion was considered withdrawn.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—*To reduce the demand of Rs. 345—2—10 under 11—Tramway by Re. 1.*

Demand put and carried.

3. 14—(1)—Huzur Secretariat—Stationery—Rs. 500.

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—Sir, I rise to move for an additional grant of Rs. 500 under 14—(1) Huzur Secretariat—Stationery. The amount is required to pay the Stationery costs of this year. We had a provision of Rs. 1,050 in the current year's budget out of which a sum of Rs. 750 had been adjusted towards the outstanding dues of last year so that with the funds available it is not possible to meet the current year's demand. To make the accounts up-to-date a sum of Rs. 500 is required

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly